MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH   JULY 26, 2005

Los Angeles County and the State of California continue to experience a nursing shortage, which has no signs of improving. In fact, the State estimates that it will have a shortage of almost 50,000 nurses by 2010.

This shortage is particularly acute in the areas of critical care nursing. The lack of critical care nurses has a far-reaching impact on the availability of health care services in Los Angeles County. In fact, the shortage of these nurses is cited by private hospitals as a key factor that affects their ability to operate and support trauma services.

In 1991, the Los Angeles County Michael D. Antonovich Registered Nurse Scholarship Grant Program was initiated to provide scholarships ranging up to $2,500 in exchange for a maximum of three years service agreement with the Department of Health Services upon graduation and receipt of one's RN license. This program has been successful in recruiting staff nurses throughout our hospitals and clinics.

Governor Schwarzenegger has unveiled two initiatives this year to address the nursing shortage. The first, announced in March, released $13 million in State funds to support nursing job training and education. In April, the Governor announced the California Nurse Education Initiative that provides additional funds to support nursing education activities. These initiatives put into place a framework to increase the educational opportunities for individuals who want to become nurses.

- M O R E -

MOTION

BURKE   _____

YAROSLAVSKY   _____

KNABE   _____

ANTONOVICH   _____

MOLINA   _____

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board direct the Director of Health Services to evaluate the current County nurse scholarship programs and report back in 30 days with a proposal that will provide full tuition reimbursement to individuals that commit four years to the Department of Health Services and for those nurses who successfully complete coursework in specialty nursing services (e.g., critical care, operating room, or emergency care).

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MDA:kblsc